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SOMERSET COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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N.J.S.A.19:61-9: AUDITS OF ELECTION RESULTS 2024 General Election Audit Date: November 18, 2024

The Somerset County Board of Elections (SCBOE) convened for the purpose of performing a post-election audit consistent with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:61-9 and the guidelines and memorandum issued by the New Jersey Division of Elections (NJDOE) on November 1, 2024. The audit was open to the public for in-person observation.

The SCBOE conducted a hand-to-eye count of the voter-verifiable paper records for the General Election for the U.S. President, U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, County Commissioners, and Municipal Mayor and Council contests. The Board of Education elections, fire district elections and public questions were excluded from the audit pursuant to the memorandum issued by the NJDOE.

Pursuant to the statute, "the audit shall be conducted in at least 2% of the election districts (batches) in which each audited election appears on the ballot." Somerset County is comprised of Congressional Districts 7 and 12. Absent any public volunteers, the required audit units to be randomly selected were drawn by one (1) Election Board Commissioner of each party. Six (6) audit units (batches) were drawn and audited from each of the 2 Congressional Districts. A total of 12 audit units (batches) were audited from the two (2) Congressional Districts.

Audit units included: Election Day Ballots (Machine), Vote by Mail Ballots (VBMs) and Provisional Ballots (Provo) by municipality/ward. Tally sheets were prepared in advance of the audit for each municipality/ward and approved by the New Jersey Division of Elections.

The following audit units were randomly selected for audit on November 17, 2024, at 11:00am via a publicly advertised meeting and in person observation:

1. 7th Congressional District: Hillsborough	Batch: A0151	VBM Tab A
2. 7th Congressional District: Peapack-Gladstone	Batch: A0117*	VBM Tab A
3. 7th Congressional District: Bridgewater	Batch: A0078	VBM Tab A
4. 7th Congressional District: Green Brook	Batch: A0247	VBM Tab A
5. 7th Congressional District: Branchburg	Batch: A0044*	VBM Tab A
6. 7th Congressional District: Bedminster	Batch: A0275	VBM Tab A
7. 12th Congressional District: Franklin	Batch: B0009	EV Provo Tab B
8. 12th Congressional District: Franklin	Batch: A0153*	VBM Tab A
9. 12th Congressional District: Franklin	Batch: A0196*	VBM Tab A
10. 12th Congressional District: Rocky Hill	Batch: Machine D-1	ED Machine
11. 12th Congressional District: Hillsborough	Batch: A0164*	VBM Tab A
12. 12th Congressional District: Franklin	Batch: B0052	ED Provo Tab B

In the audited batch identified with an asterisk the hand to eye count revealed only a minor discrepancy with the scanned tally. The hand to eye count identified a vote discrepancy of one vote on random contests on the ballot. This was attributable to the hand to eye Tally Teams identifying partially and/or incorrectly marked ovals on the ballot that showed clear voter intent but were likely not recorded by the scanner. The audit did not result in any significant change in the number of votes counted for any candidate. Any paper ballot which contained an overvote for a particular contest recorded it as an overvote but did not count a vote. Undervotes were recorded by the vote tabulation system and were reconciled during the audit.

Respectfully Submitted on November 20, 2024, by:

Jerry L. Midgette Administrator